

Message Text

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65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ABF-01 SCSE-00 FSE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00

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P 152222Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8534

UNCLAS OTTAWA 0180

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, AFIN, CA, CFED

SUBJ: POSTS COSTS INVOLVED IN DISTRIBUTING BENEFICIARY
CHECKS IN CANADA DURING CANADIAN POSTAL STRIKE

1. FORTY-THREE DAY POSTAL STRIKE WAS LONGEST IN
CANADIAN HISTORY. DURING PERIOD OF STRIKE, BENEFICIARY
CHECKS FOR DELIVERY NOV 1 AND DEC 1 WERE SHIPPED IN
BULK TO U.S. BORDER ADDRESSES AND PICKED UP BY EMBASSY
OTTAWA AND REPRESENTATIVES OF EIGHT CONSTITUENT
CONSULATES GENERAL ACROSS CANADA. AN ESTIMATED 100,000
CHECKS WERE HANDLED IN THIS MANNER.

2. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE POSTS PERFORMED A
VARIETY OF SERVICES IN SEEING THAT CHECKS WERE PROMPTLY
DELIVERED. MUCH TIME WAS SPENT IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH
CANADIAN AUTHORITIES WHO ULTIMATELY DELIVERED THE GREAT
MAJORITY OF THE CHECKS FREE OF CHARGE. HOWEVER,
STATE POSTS DID INCUR UNUSUAL EXPENSES IN PERFORMING THESE
SERVICES AND WILL APPRECIATE REIMBURSEMENT TO ITS
POST SHARED ALLOTMENT OF US\$4995.

3. REPORTS FROM ALL POSTS INDICATE EXPENSES FALL INTO
THE BELOW LISTED MAJOR CATEGORIES:

TRANSPORTATION	\$1842
TELEX & TELEPHONE CALLS	765
LOCAL EMPLOYEE OVERTIME	1513

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U.S. EMPLOYEE OVERTIME 689

MISCELLANEOUS 186

TOTAL \$4995

NOTE: TRANSPORTATION INCLUDES THOSE TRIPS TO BORDER STATIONS, PLUS PER DIEM, MADE PRIMARILY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PICK UP OF BENEFICIARY CHECKS. CG PERSONNEL HALIFAX PHYSICALLY DISTRIBUTED BENEFICIARY CHECKS IN CHARLOTTETOWN, MONCTON, SAINT JOHN AND FREDERICTON PRIOR TO ACCEPTANCE OF CHECKS BY CANADIAN POSTAL AUTHORITIES. ALSO INCLUDED IN THIS CATEGORY IS COST OF AIR FREIGHTING AND REGISTERED BUS SHIPMENT OF CHECKS TO SOME DISTRIBUTION POINTS.

4. IT OCCURS TO THE EMBASSY THAT AGENCIES INVOLVED IN ISSUING THE CHECKS ACTUALLY SAVED MORE THAN THE \$4995 BY NOT HAVING TO PAY THE POSTAGE THEY NORMALLY WOULD HAVE PAID HAD THE 100,000 CHECKS BEEN SENT THROUGH THE NORMAL U.S. POSTAL CHANNELS.

5. REPLENISHMENT OF THE POST'S SHARED ALLOTMENT AT AN EARLY DATE WILL BE APPRECIATED. JOHNSON

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NNN

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